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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Letter dated 18 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the joint statement of the Heads of States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) on countering international terrorism, which was adopted at the session of the Council on Collective Security held in Moscow on 21 December 2015 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 108 and 117, and as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Zohrab **Mnatsakanyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 18 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Heads of States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on countering international terrorism

We, the Heads of States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), note with deep concern the greatly increased threat of terrorism to international peace and security and to the sovereignty of States.

We reiterate our strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stress that no acts of terrorism can be justified on ideological, religious, political, racial, ethnic or any other grounds.

We believe that terrorist massacres of civilians, the wanton destruction of historical monuments and the desecration of religious sites are incompatible with the norms of morality, humanism and spirituality.

Convinced of the need to consolidate the efforts of the entire international community in order to combat terrorism effectively, we support the establishment of a broad coalition based on the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles of international law, without politicization or preconditions. We call upon all States to comply strictly with the requirements of the counter-terrorism resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and the General Assembly.

Priority should be given to firmly suppressing the activities of the terrorist group Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which has unleashed terrible bloodshed in many countries and poses a threat to all humanity.

We acknowledge the greater security threats in Central Asia related to increased activity by ISIL, the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other terrorist organizations in Afghanistan, resulting in a spike in tension on the southern boundaries of CSTO that directly threatens to destabilize the situation within its area of responsibility.

We believe that enhancing cooperation within existing regional structures and broadening counter-terrorism cooperation among States at the political level, and at the level of the special services and relevant ministries and departments, will help to maintain stability in Eurasia and in the world as a whole.

We attach great importance to further strengthening comprehensive measures to counter the ideology of international terrorism and religious extremism. We are convinced that, in order to bolster the immunity of individuals against the spread of radical ideas, the efforts of relevant public authorities must be supplemented by the capacity of civic structures, the media and religious denominations.

We are convinced that effective counter-terrorism is possible only if the sources of its financing are reliably cut off, as required by pertinent Security Council resolutions and international standards of the Financial Action Task Force. In that context, we welcome the adoption by the United Nations of Security Council resolution 2253 (2015) of 17 December 2015 to counter the financing of terrorism and its call upon all States to take the necessary measures against ISIL, Al-Qaida and other associated individuals, groups and organizations. We reaffirm the

responsibility of all States to undertake efforts to identify organizations, individuals and entities with economic ties to ISIL and other terrorist groups, and to reliably block the channels financing terrorism.

We also share the resolve of the international community, reaffirmed in Security Council resolution 2254 (2015) of 18 December 2015, to scale up efforts to combat terrorism in the Syrian Arab Republic while simultaneously promoting a peaceful political settlement through negotiations between the Syrian Government and a broad spectrum of the opposition.

We intend to consistently strengthen the force capacity of CSTO, to upgrade its counter-terrorism component and to enhance the combat readiness of its collective rapid reaction forces in order to effectively counter new threats and challenges.

Signed by the Heads of State of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan.

Moscow,
21 December 2015